IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1-4 and 10-24 in accordance with the following:

1. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

a registered commodity data storing unit storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about <u>the commodity, including a public condition,</u> a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price <u>for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies</u>; and

a unit changing a price if the information about the change condition or the change price, which is registered to said registered commodity data storing unit, is satisfied<u>, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition</u>.

2. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

a registered commodity data storing unit storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about <u>the commodity, including a public condition,</u> a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price <u>for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies</u>; and

a searching unit searching for at least one of a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating the commodity, and for a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating the commodity, in registered commodity information

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stored in said registered commodity data storing unit, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

3. (**currently amended**) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

a registered commodity data storing unit storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

a searching unit obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a sale or purchase request by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to the purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to the sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing unit, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

4. (**currently amended**) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

a registered commodity data storing unit storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

a searching unit obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a designated desired price by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing unit, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

5. (**original**) The electronic commerce system according to claim 4, further comprising a purchase and sale information managing unit concluding a transaction of the registered sale or purchase request, which is obtained by said searching unit.

6. (**original**) The electronic commerce system according to claim 2, wherein the change condition of the desired price is a purchase or a sale of a different commodity, a purchase or sale amount of a corresponding commodity, a payment method, or a delivery of the commodity.

7. (**original**) The electronic commerce system according to claim 3, wherein the change condition of the desired price is a purchase or a sale of a different commodity, a purchase or sale amount of a corresponding commodity, a payment method, or a delivery of the commodity.

8. (**original**) The electronic commerce system according to claim 4, wherein the change condition of the desired price is a purchase or a sale of a different commodity, a purchase or sale amount of a corresponding commodity, a payment method, or a delivery of the commodity.

9. (**original**) The electronic commerce system according to claim 2, further comprising a unit displaying a transaction partner that sets a transaction condition and a transaction partner that does not set a transaction condition by making a distinction between the transaction partners, when transaction partners searched by said searching unit are listed and displayed.

10. (**currently amended**) An electronic commerce system aiding in a. purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

a registered commodity data storing unit storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition and a condition changing the desired sale or purchase price depending on a time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

a unit changing a desired price of the commodity when a time stored in said registered commodity data storing unit elapses, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

11. (**currently amended**) An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

a registered commodity data storing unit storing information about a sale or purchase desire of a commodity along with a public condition and a change condition for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

a unit making the sale or purchase desire of the commodity public if the public condition stored in said registered commodity data storing unit is satisfied, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

12. (**currently amended**) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, said process comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

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searching for at least one of a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating the commodity, and for a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating the commodity, in stored registered commodity information, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

13. (**currently amended**) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, said process comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition and a condition changing the desired sale or purchase price depending on a time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

changing a desired price of the commodity when a stored time elapses, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

14. (**currently amended**) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, said process comprising:

storing information about a sale or purchase desire of a commodity along with a public condition and a change condition for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

making the sale or purchase desire of the commodity public if the stored public condition is satisfied, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information

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about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

15. (**currently amended**) An electronic commerce method aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity in an electronic commerce system, comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

changing a price if the information about the change condition or the change price in the stored information is satisfied, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

16. (**currently amended**) An electronic commerce method aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity in an electronic commerce system, comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

searching for at least one of a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating the commodity, and for a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating the commodity, in the stored information, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

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17. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce method aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity in an electronic commerce system, comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a sale or purchase request by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to the purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to the sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in the stored information, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

18. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce method aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity in an electronic commerce system, comprising:

storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a designated desired price by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing unit, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the

elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

19. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

means for changing a price if the information about the change condition or the change price, which is registered to said registered commodity data storing means, is satisfied, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

20. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

searching means for searching for at least one of a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating the commodity, and for a desired price and information about a change condition and a change price of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing means, thereby providing automatic strategic

price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

21. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

searching means for obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a sale or purchase request by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to the purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to the sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing means, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

22. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition, a change condition and a change price of he desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

searching means for obtaining a registered sale or purchase request corresponding to a designated desired price by searching for a desired price and a change condition of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a sale of a designated commodity in response to a purchase request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, and for a desired price and a change condition, of the desired price of a transaction partner that registers a purchase of a designated commodity in response to a sale request designating a desired price of a commodity and a condition which can be satisfied in a transaction of the commodity, in registered commodity information stored in said registered commodity data storing means, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

23. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a   commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing a desired sale or purchase price of a commodity, and information about the commodity, including a public condition and a condition changing the desired sale or purchase price depending on a time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

means for changing a desired price of the commodity when a time stored in said registered commodity data storing means elapses, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.

24. **(currently amended)** An electronic commerce system aiding in a purchase and a sale of a commodity, comprising:

registered commodity data storing means for storing information about a sale or purchase desire of a commodity along with a public condition and a change condition for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies; and

means for making the sale or purchase desire of the commodity public if the public condition stored in said registered commodity data storing means is satisfied, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted and automatically changing from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition.